

Message Text

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ACTION HUD-02

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DEPT PASS HUD FOR STEGALL

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TAGS: TECH UR US
SUBJECT: US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT: INDUSTRIALIZED BUILDING
SYSTEMS AND UTILITIES (10.02): VISIT OF US DELEGATION ON SUB-
PROJECT 1.1.1

1. US HOUSING AGREEMENT DELEGATION ON SUBPROJECT 1.1.1 (BUILDING
SYSTEMS AND COMPONENTS FOR HOUSING, PUBLIC AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDING
ERECTED BY INDUSTRIAL METHODS, INCLUDING DESIGN, FACTORY MANUFACTURE
OF DETAILS, CORROSION PROTECTION, PACKAGING, TRANSPORT, ASSEMBLY,
FINISHING AND ATTENDANT SITE AMENITIES) OF WORKING GROUP 10.02
(INDUSTRIALIZED BUILDING SYSTEMS AND UTILITIES) VISITED THE USSR
MARCH 10-19. THE GROUP'S ITINERARY INCLUDED MOSCOW, LENINGRAD AND
TASHKENT. THE U.S. DELEGATION DID NOT FIND TIME TO MEET WITH EMBASSY
SCIENCE OFFICERS DURING THE COURSE OF THE VISIT, BUT SCIENCE OFFICER
WAS ABLE TO MEET WITH DELEGATION MEMBER ROBERT FULLER OF HUD JUST
PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW MARCH 19.

2. GIVEN THE LONG HISTORY OF VISIT POSTPONEMENTS AND GENERAL UN-
RESPONSIVENESS BY THE SOVIETS CONCERNING WORKING GROUP 10.02, THIS
DELEGATION VISIT ASSUMES A GREATER THAN USUAL SIGNIFICANCE AS A
POSSIBLE INDICATION OF SOVIET INTERESTS AND INTENTIONS CONCERNING
THE FUTURE OF THE WORKING GROUP. FULLER CHARACTERIZED THE VISIT AS A
GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL ONE AND STRESSED THE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF
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THE DELEGATION'S SOVIET HOSTS. HE NOTED THAT THE U.S. GROUP HAD COME
WITH VERY LOW EXPECTATIONS CONCERNING THE SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS OF THE
TRIP AND HAD BEEN PLEASED THAT THERE HAD BEEN USEFUL DISCUSSIONS
AND SITE VISITS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM. HOWEVER, FULLER DID NOT
FEEL THAT THE VISIT, VIEWED SIMPLY ON ITS OWN MERITS, HAD PRODUCED
ANY NOTEWORTHY RESULTS.

3. LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE IN MOSCOW AT THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH AND DESIGN INSTITUTE FOR HOUSING AND AT THE COMPARABLE INSTITUTE IN LENINGRAD, DEVOTED LARGELY TO THOSE INSTITUTES' FUNCTIONS AND CURRENT PROJECTS. FULLER NOTED THAT THIS WAS USEFUL FOR HIS FELLOW DELEGATION MEMBERS, WHO WERE VISITING THE USSR FOR THE FIRST TIME, BUT THAT IT WAS LARGELY A REPETITION OF WHAT FULLER HAD LEARNED ON A PREVIOUS VISIT. HE TERMED A VISIT TO A LENINGRAD CONCRETE MODULE FACTORY EXTREMELY INTERESTING AND USEFUL, WHILE VISITS TO A CONCRETE PANELS FACTORY AND TO CONSTRUCTION SITES WERE MUCH LESS USEFUL. HOWEVER, DELEGATION MEMBERS WERE PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS FREELY IN THE FACTORIES THEY VISITED. FULLER DESCRIBED THE VISIT TO TASHKENT AS INTERESTING BUT EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE PROGRAM THERE HAD LITTLE RELEVANCE TO THE SUBPROJECT TOPIC. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TASHKENT PROGRAM INCLUDED A VISIT TO A LIGHT-WEIGHT METAL STRUCTURES PLANT, A LENGTHY PRESENTATION ON TOWN PLANNING AT THE UNION OF ARCHITECTS, AND A RECEPTION AT WHICH THE RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS WAS SIGNED.

4. FULLER DESCRIBED THE RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS AS CONTAINING ONLY A PROGRAM OF THE VISIT, A LIST OF PUBLISHED MATERIALS PRESENTED TO DELEGATION MEMBERS, AND A MUTUAL EXPRESSION OF CONTINUING INTEREST IN FURTHER COOPERATION ON THIS TOPIC. SPECIFIC DISCUSSION OF FUTURE JOINT COOPERATION WAS DEFERRED TO THE WORKING GROUP MEETING.

5. FULLER NOTED THAT THE DELEGATION HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE DOCUMENT, INCLUDING THE LIST OF MATERIALS RECEIVED, NOR THE REQUESTED LIST OF THE NAMES OF THE SOVIET OFFICIALS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECIALISTS WITH WHOM THE DELEGATION HAD MET THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, SCIENCE OFFICER WILL FOLLOW UP ON THESE MATTERS WITH TERYTYEV OF GOSSTROY.

6. COMMENT: IT APPEARS TO EMBASSY THAT THE QUALITY OF THE PROGRAM FOR U.S. HOUSING DELEGATIONS COULD BE IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY IF HUD HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AT LEAST A DRAFT PROGRAM AND TO REQUEST ANY NECESSARY CHANGES OR DELETIONS IN ADVANCE OF A U.S. DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE FOR THE USSR. GOSSTROY NOW REQUIRES SUBMISSION OF THE U.S. PROGRAM FOR SOVIET DELEGATION VISITS 21 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF DEPARTURE, BUT ROUTINELY PROVIDES ITINERARIES AND PROGRAM FOR U.S. DELEGATIONS ONLY UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE USSR. EMBASSY PRESUMES STEGALL WILL RAISE THIS MATTER WITH BORUNOV OF USSR SECRETARIAT DURING HIS MARCH 27-APRIL 5 VISIT TO THE U.S. WITH S SOVIET 1.1.1 DELEGATION.

7. CONCERNING DELEGATION DELEGATION PROGRAMS, EMBASSY HAS NOTED A TENDENCY FOR SOVIET SECRETARIAT REPEATEDLY TO SCHEDULE U.S. DELEGATIONS FOR VISITS TO CERTAIN CITIES AND INSTITUTES WITH WHAT MAY BE

INSUFFICIENT REGARD TO THE SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE INTERESTS OF THE
U.S. GROUPS INVOLVED. LENINGRAD, KIEV, MINSK AND TASHKENT APPEAR TO
BE FAVORED DESTINATIONS, AND IN THIS INSTANCE, TASHKENT MAY NOT
HAVE BEEN THE BEST CHOICE FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROGRAM.THE LENGTHY
PRESENTATIONS ON TOWN PLANNING IN TASHKENT, WHICH DOMINATED
THE PROGRAM IN THAT CITY, APPEAR, FROM FULLER'S DESCRIPTION,
TO HAVE BEEN REPETITIONS OF PRESENTATONS MADE IN FEBRUARY, 1976,
TO A NEW TOWNS (10.06) DELEGATION, OF WHICH STEGALL AND SCIENCE
OFFICER WERE MEMBERS.
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